

517 other densely populated areas, and almost every

545 rural community has an amateur company whose performances sometimes are surprisingly

245 polished and skilled. In 1951-52 there were 33

545 government-subsidized professional theaters,

3 of them performing in Swedish, and 73

workers' amateur companies and 2400 groups

of actors giving regular performances under

● 546 the sponsorship of different societies. During the same season there were 505 motion picture theaters; about one-tenth of them in Helsinki.

517 Handicraft and reading are still considered a

good way to spend long winter evenings, not to

speak of radio-listening, which during the last

few decades has become a very important source of entertainment as well as of information.

527 Special holidays are observed in both rural

and urban areas. The most important among

533 considered "out of fashion." Jazz music is not popular in Finland except among a few university and high school students, while the common people favor a kind of "hillbilly music." However, the Finns are extremely interested in choir singing, and thus become acquainted with better vocal music.

536 Dramatic Arts. The interest shown by the
545 Finns in dramatic art, if one considers the number of theaters and acting companies in proportion to the size of the population, may be adjudged very great. Actors and authors also often give public readings of poetry and prose pieces, and, as a rule, these occasions are well attended. The products of the Finnish
● 546 film industry are almost entirely limited to

● 546 Finnish audiences, although occasionally they may be shown in Scandinavia too.

306 Art Industry. Archeological finds have pro-
[172] duced evidence of the artistic abilities of the ancient Finns. Peices of woven material, various trinkets and tools show interesting forms and decorative patterns. Lately, a special handicraft industry has been established to study and to reproduce old jewelry and other articles, and these so-called "Kalevala-trinkets" have become very popular among Finnish women.

531 The Finnish men, especially in western
[322] Finland, have been skillful in carving and making decorative furniture. Certain parts of the country have excelled in special skills; for example, in Ostrobothnia there existed a long

Annex "A," Subparagraph 11,

Sociological Background

PUBLIC INFORMATION

204 Newspapers are still by far the most important
media for disseminating news in Finland. Vir-
tually every family subscribes to at least one
daily newspaper and to several magazines. Ed-
ucated people all over the country commonly
subscribe to a Helsinki paper in addition to a
207 local one. As distributor of the latest news,
[205] radio is indispensable in many rural areas where
mail deliveries do not exceed two or three times
a week. The news service, both for the papers
and the radio, is comprehensive and quick.

546 Movies, on the other hand, have little impor-
tance in disseminating news. Newsreels are of
actual value only in Helsinki and in other major
cities, for when they arrive in the rural areas
they are usually hope-227-lessly out-of-date.